

# The Macintosh Guild

## MAC GUILD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2003



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### WWDC 2003 Excerpt

By Larry Peng

This year the conference was pushed back by one month, and the location changed to the Moscone West Convention Center in San Francisco. The reason for the delay was to ensure that developers would receive a stable and workable developer preview of the next major revision of Mac OS X (code name of Panther).

This year, WWDC represented a combination of "WWDC" and the "QuickTime Live Conference". In addition, this year there was an Enterprise Track which tried to address issues that are of concern to system and network administrators.

#### Keynote Address (June 23, 2003)

It soon became obvious that the keynote speech was not aimed only at the development community, but to the world. According to Steve Jobs, the attendance of 3800 developers represents just over one percent of the total number of registered Apple developers. Developers of all kinds are there from the Mac, Unix, and Java communities. Steve began with a few status updates.

First was Airport Extreme (802.11g). The 802.11g standard was ratified the previous week, and Apple via the latest software update should now be in compliance with the standard. To date, Apple has shipped more than 300,000 Airport Extreme products.

Second was the Apple Stores. 58 stores over the last 25 months, with 17 million visitors. Three new stores were mentioned: Chicago (opened the June 28th weekend), San Francisco next spring, and Tokyo early next year.

Third was the iPod. Apple is now on the 3rd generation model, and waiting for competitors to match the first generation. The one millionth iPod shipped on June 23.

Fourth was the iTunes Music Store and iTunes 4. iTunes 4 and the store was launched 8 weeks ago, and the 5 millionth song was sold on June 21st.

Fifth was Safari. Steve declared Safari version one available today after 5 million beta downloads. A Safari SDK is also available today so developers can embed Safari capabilities into their apps.

Steve then moved on to preview Mac OS X 10.3, codenamed Panther. WWDC attendees got a developer preview copy of Panther after the keynote. Steve announced that Panther will ship before the end of the year for 129 dollars retail.

Steve outlined several new features of Panther:

- A) A new Finder
- B) Improved iDisk
- C) Expose
- D) File Vault

- E) Improvements to Mail
- F) IPSec based VPN in Panther and Panther Server
- G) Built in Fax
- H) Pixlet
- I) Preview
- J) Fast User Switching
- K) FontBook
- L) IChatAV (Videoconferencing for the rest of us)

Following the highlights of Panther, there were several major announcements:

### **iSight**

As a companion product to iChat AV, Apple shipped iSight on the same day of the WWDC keynote. It is a high quality firewire video camera (640 by 480, 30 fps, f2.8 aperture, dual element microphone). iSight is auto focus and exposure, and features 3 different mounts of the top of monitors on laptops, flat screens, eMacs. To a roaring crowd, Steve announced that each WWDC 2003 attendee would receive a free iSight.

As an aside, Larry Peng (author of this report) and his LLNL colleague Steve Kiar tried doing an iChatAV session between their homes, and it worked well. We were both on Airport wireless 802.11b running through Linksys switches to our broadband ISP's (cable modem for Larry, DSL modem for Steve). Larry was using a 1 GHz Titanium PowerBook, and Steve was on a 733 MHz G4 tower. Our wives finally got the chance to meet each other!

### **XCode**

Steve introduced the new Apple supplied development environment for Mac developers named XCode for Jaguar and Panther. The focus of XCode is to minimize development and debugging time. It features a cleaner user interface, gcc 3.3 compiler, much improved compile time, a zero link feature (only link what needs to be linked), fast code searching, predictive compilation (compile based on what you type), fix and continue (developers can make code changes to an application while the application is running), auto use of idle resources, and distribute compilation to distributed hosts, etc.

As a result, compile times between CodeWarrior is now around 2x faster than XCode (The Finder UI as the example) versus around a factor of 10 previously under the same setup. If multiple hosts are involved, then XCode can compile faster than CodeWarrior. Steve only half-jokingly suggested using a rack of Xserves for distributed compiles.

### **Power Mac G5**

In a major departure from recent WWDC keynotes, Steve Jobs spent a major portion of his talk introducing the new Power Mac G5 (billed as the world's fastest personal computer). These are totally redesigned from the ground up, and based on the IBM PPC 970 (marketed as the G5).

The IBM PPC 970 is derived from IBM's high performance POWER 4 processor. The new 970 is a 64 bit PowerPC CPU with a front side bus of half of the CPU clock speed. Symmetric multiprocessing is natively supported by the 970. The 970 is manufactured at IBM's new \$3 billion fab in East Fishkill, New York. The POWER processor family is also the basis for LLNL's ASCI Purple supercomputer (via the upcoming POWER 5).

*NOTE: The above is only an excerpt from the trip report. For the full-length detailed report of the WWDC 2003 by Guild member Larry Peng, go to <http://mac.excaliburworld.com/wwdc/wwdc03.html>.*

## Bob's Panther Party Experience

Contributed by Bob Kenyon

**Event: Apple's Nationwide Panther Release**

**Date: 10/24/2003**

**Time: 8:00 PM**

**Where: Apple Store, Valley Fair, Santa Clara, California**



*The Day After...*

Man it's so much fun drinking the Kool-Aid. I did just that last night, going to the Panther Party at my local Apple Store at Valley Fair.

I was pretty casual about going there. I didn't really want to wait in line forever, but when I got there around 8pm, I was chagrined to see a line sweeping around the "courtyard" outside Nordstrom. Sure enough, it was the line for the Apple Store and like a coke-addled disco queen dying to get into Studio 54, I got into line.

I was immediately impressed by the buzz around the place. People were walking up and asking what was going on, and why was everyone in line. The Apple employees were wandering around the line making sure everyone filled out the cards for the drawing for the free iMac. Most people who didn't already know what was going on would do the quizzical dog tilt of the head, realize it was a Mac thing and either walk away or fill out a card. The Mac heads, however, just got into line and waited patiently.

After about a half an hour, I noticed a young kid come out of the store and sit down at one of the Nordstrom cafe tables with his iBook and a newly fresh copy of Panther. He opened the box and emptied out the contents, after waking up his machine from sleep. He rifled through some of the documents, discarded them on top of the Panther box and found the CD's. Regarding them closely, he looked at each one and set them down. He then put the documentation and other flotsam back in the box, set it aside and went back to the disks. He inserted the first disk and started the install program.

I lost track of him for a while, but later I noticed him playing a game on his phone. I assume that he was waiting for the installation to complete but I couldn't see his screen. There were other Apple employees walking around the line with PowerBooks demonstrating the new Panther features. The time went by somewhat quickly, but I was getting tired of waiting.

But finally, the time arrived and I swept into the store. Panther boxes were on top of all the software aisles, and I grabbed one. I really only wanted to buy a couple of other things--an iTrip to play my iPod through the radio, and an iMic so I could make mp3's of my old records and tapes. I got both items and wandered around the store, checking out all the folks trying out the new machines. There were a lot of PowerBooks and G5's exiting the store, that's for sure.

Finally, I was able to check out. The lady made sure that I had an old iPod to go with the iTrip, and I got all my 10% discounts. I was so happy to get out of there, I walked right past the people at the front giving out the "gift" from Apple, which was some dog tags with the Panther X logo on them. Maybe I can put them on my dogs.

## Updated Mac VPN FAQ

Contributed by Bill Catambay

The following FAQ is in support of the Netlock Mac VPN client, the only VPN client that Lockheed Martin employees can use on their Macs for connecting to the Lockheed Martin Enterprise Virtual Private Network (EVPN). This FAQ, and other related VPN information, can be found at the Mac Guild VPN web site: <http://mac.excaliburworld.com/vpn/vpn.html>.

### **Does the Mac VPN client support OS X?**

*Yes, version 2.1 (or later) of the VPN client supports OS X.*

### **Does the Mac VPN client support Panther (10.3)?**

*VPN client v2.1.7 adds support for Panther, but Mac Guild testing has shown that versions as old as v2.1.4 work fine with Panther (OS 10.3) as well. There are problems reported using v2.1.2 with Panther.*

### **Can I use the VPN component built-in to OS X to access EVPN?**

*No, the VPN client built-in to OS X does not support the Nortel switch. You must purchase the Netlock VPN client to access EVPN.*

### **What are the Mac requirements?**

#### Mac OS X - 10.1.5 or later

- Netlock client v2.1 or later
- CD ROM drive
- 10 MB free disk space
- 64 MB RAM
- Web Browser

#### Mac OS 8.6 - 9.2.2

- Netlock client v1.2 or later
- Open Transport 2.0.3 or later
- CD ROM drive
- 10 MB free disk space
- 64 MB RAM
- Web Browser

### **Does the Mac VPN client work through a router or an Apple airport?**

*The ability to use the Client with a router is dependent upon the router model and firmware. The router must allow data through port 500, protocols 50 and 51, and allows any UDP port to be used for NAT traversal. For example, the Asante FR1000/3000 series routers are not End Point solutions, and does not work with the Netlock VPN client; whereas, the Asante VR2000 series should support it.*

*In general, the EVPN solution is using NAT Traversal over port UDP/4500. This information is in the [LM EVPN FAQs](#). Be sure to keep the firmware current.*

*The ability to use the Client with the AirPort is dependant on the model and firmware version of the AirPort being used, whether or not the AirPort is acting as a NAT device, and whether or not NAT traversal is configured on the Contivity switch. Early models of the AirPort do not support IPSec passthrough or NAT traversal. They will not work with the Client when it is used as a NAT device. These models of AirPort will only work when the AirPort is configured to act as a bridge.*

*AirPorts with firmware 2.0.4 or later support IPSec passthrough. These versions require Mac OS X in order to configure the AirPort. They will support the use of the Client when the AirPort is used as a NAT, but NAT traversal must not be enabled on the Contivity switch.*

AirPort Extreme with firmware 5.1 or later supports both IPSec passthrough and NAT traversal. This will support the use of the Client when the AirPort is used as a NAT, independent of the NAT traversal settings on the Contivity switch.

### **How do I get updates to the Mac VPN client?**

If you were to purchase today, your purchase includes annual maintenance. Annual maintenance includes technical support and free upgrades for one year. If you already own the client, but are not on the maintenance program, you can sign up for the maintenance program for \$25, and you get free upgrades for a year from the point at which you purchased the client (or from the date your last maintenance ended).

### **Can Mac users access Lockheed Martin through VPN?**

Yes, that's what these pages are all about. As of December of 2001, Nortel has released a Mac client which can be used to access Lockheed Martin's VPN switches.

### **Is the Mac client covered under Lockheed Martin licensing?**

No, as a Mac user, you must purchase the Mac client yourself. For information on ordering the Mac client, check out the [Mac VPN ordering page](#).

### **Is there anything special I need to do to use VPN on the Mac?**

Yes, as a Mac user, you need to [purchase](#) the VPN client yourself, and you must also ensure that your EVPN account is assigned to the non-compression profile. This special profile has compression turned off, which is a requirement to use the Mac VPN client. Submit a service request to the ESD, let them know you are a Mac EVPN user and request getting switched to the non-compression EVPN profile. Have the request assigned to ISO--RAS assignment group.

### **If my account is placed in the non-compression profile, will I still be able to use EVPN on my PC?**

Yes, the non-compression profile will still allow access via VPN on your PC. The only difference is that your connection on the PC will also be uncompressed.

### **Every time I try to connect, the connections fails with a message about compression. What's wrong?**

The Mac VPN client does not work on EVPN accounts using compression. You need to submit a service request to the ESD to have your EVPN account switched to the non-compression profile.

### **Why don't the VPN DNS names work on the Mac client?**

The Mac client is not setup to access the VPN switches through the domain names. You must specify the actual IP addresses. See the [internal data page](#) for IP addresses.

### **Can I purchase the Mac VPN Client directly from Netlock?**

Yes. Netlock has announced that the client is available directly from the [Netlock web store](#) (buy it directly from [this link](#)). See the [order page](#) for more information.

### **I installed the Mac client, but there is no VPN menu in my menu bar. What's wrong?**

There is a known bug with version 1.1 of the Mac client running on newer Macs in OS 9.2 and higher. Obtain version 1.2 to resolve the problem.

WORK AROUND: You can access the client using the following URL: <http://127.0.0.1:9161/>

NOTE: You can bookmark the URL and/or drag the URL to your desktop to make it easier to access on subsequent connections.

### **Where do I go for help with the Mac VPN client?**

For Mac specific issues, send a message to the Mac Guild mailing list for help. You must be subscribed to post a message, and you can subscribe on the [Mac Guild sign-up page](#). For VPN switch issues or SecurID issues,

*you need to call the ESD (408-742-SERV). If you are unsure what category your issue falls into, ask the Mac Guild for guidance.*

**When contacting the ESD, how can I make sure the request goes to the right group?**

*Have your request assigned to the ISO--RAS assignment group.*

**Are there any other FAQs related to VPN for Lockheed Martin employees?**

*Yes, there is a generic EVPN FAQ which is geared towards both Windows and Mac users on the [Enterprise VPN site](#).*

**How do I get reimbursed for purchasing the Mac client?**

*If you wish to be reimbursed for the Mac client, you should go through your local management or financial approval process prior to ordering the product or you may not be reimbursed.*

**I'm having problems with Outlook and Exchange Servers. What can I do?**

*Here are some suggestions that have helped customers resolve problems experienced with Outlook.*

*1. Add the Exchange Server to the Macs hosts file in the TCP/IP control panel. The format is:*

*[mail.company.com A 10.1.0.1](#)*

*It's basically, host name, followed by an 'A', followed by the IP Address.*

*2. There is a [long discussion](#) regarding general problems with Outlook and any VPN tunnel. Two suggestions from the discussion:*

*A) In the Outlook preferences, make sure the default transport type is set to TCP/IP instead of Appletalk.*

*B) Within the setup of the Outlook profile, open the "Exchange Server" service properties. Click on the Advance tab. Enable "Check server every" box and set it to 22 seconds (22 gave the testers the best results after much testing).*

*3. Some customers report that they can read email, but cannot view or send large attachments. This is most likely an MTU related problem. We have provided a utility to reduce MTU that resolves that issue. [Download the free Netlock MTU Reducer from here](#).*

*Note: The application will display a simple windoid confirming the MTU change. It also creates a log file for review. If you reboot the computer it will change the MTU back to its original setting and you will need to run the application again to reduce MTU.*

**Is there an alternate VPN solution to the Netlock client for accessing the Lockheed Martin network?**

*Any alternate solution must work with the Nortel switches and they must support authentication with SecurID. A lot of products can support working with Nortel switches, but the issue is supporting the necessary SecurID authentication. Right now the only known supported solution is the Netlock client product.*

### APPLE IMOVIE 3

Reviewed By Diane Love

#### **Review systems**

iMac 1Ghz G4, 1GB memory, 80 GB hard disk, 1440 x 900 display

#### **Review Project**

Turn 3 DV tapes and 100+ digital images of an annual open-air musical event into DVDs!

#### **Introduction**

iMovie is the modern "killer app" for the Mac versus Windows. Amazingly, what we take for granted on Macs - that we can capture video, edit it and turn it into finished video or DVD - is still hard going for PC users.

Even on Macs though, it's hasn't always been easy. Video capture is very demanding of processor speed, memory, disk space and disk transfer speeds. An older machine may cease to work for video when a new version of the operating system makes increased demands.

This was the position I was left in when I discovered that the video I had captured from the 2002 event would no longer play glitch-free on our 500MHz iBook.

Around the time of the 2003 event I got a new iMac, equipped with a DVD burner and pre-loaded with the iLife suite.

#### **Upgrading to iMovie 3**

With iMovie 3 on my new machine I was able to capture the DV from the 2003 event without issue and edit the movies pretty quickly. Having done that, I then connected up the firewire disk containing the nearly finished project of the 2002 event and finished that too. After all the DVDs were burned, labeled and distributed, my review copy of "iMovie 3 and iDVD the Missing Manual" arrived. Here I discovered that it's actually not a good idea to work on an iMovie 2 project in iMovie 3 - you are recommended to finish it in iMovie 2. Seems I got lucky.

#### **Improvements over previous versions**

For me the worst feature of the previous iMovie was the infamous ghostly triangles. Given that the program was designed to edit video, you'd think the controls for selecting points to cut, copy and paste would have been visible and easy to manipulate. Incredibly, in the previous iMovie neither was true. Working on my own, I never discovered how to use the ghostly triangles that occasionally flitted around the scrubber bar but disappeared when I tried to grab them with the mouse. I did discover you could split the clip at the playhead, move the playhead, split again and then throw away the unwanted part inside or outside the cuts. "iMovie 2 the Missing Manual" explained precisely how to conquer the ghostly triangles, and iMovie 3 makes them visible and easy to use. For better or worse though, I like to use my split clip at playhead method, since I like to focus on defining one cut point at a time.

New in iMovie 3, the Ken Burns effect allows you to add motion to stills that you incorporate into your video. You can define a start point and zoom level and an end point and zoom level, and iMovie then constructs a clip from the photo. This is a lifesaver for people who like to park their camcorder on a tripod and video themselves playing with their band - the static view from the tripod gets old when nobody is zooming in on solos. If you have photos from the event, you can cut to closeups moving and crossfading through each other while the sound is still running, and end up with more interesting video. Another application is to create movies from stills only.

So how do you find the right still photos to incorporate? The iLife link to iPhoto vastly improves workflow even if you know which of the stills in your iPhoto library you want. I found myself working with both iMovie and iPhoto simultaneously. In iPhoto, I was examining the stills in detail, choosing the ones with



the best facial expressions. The thumbnails that iMovie shows you are too small for this. Still in iPhoto, I would also define specific albums for the movie and put the selected photos into them. This made it far easier to locate the chosen photos from within iMovie. Thankfully, iMovie and iPhoto display the albums in the same order.

The iLife link to iTunes was not necessary for my project. It looks like it would work nearly as well as the iPhoto link, with the exception that the playlist selector in iMovie madly shows the iTunes playlists in a random order - neither the alphabetical order of iTunes nor chronological.

I noticed there were some very interesting new sound effects including the self-explanatory "suspense" and "foreboding". The wagon crash sound I use for ski mishaps was unfortunately gone, though no doubt it's still on one of our machines somewhere. Also worth mentioning is the improved sound editing capability in iMovie 3, where you can change the volume in a clip by dragging points on a volume curve up and down.

Similarly there are some interesting new visual effects. While I don't normally indulge in these, I did make an exception and use the lightning effect to draw attention to a great guitar solo from one of my band members!

Due to lack of a DVD burner on my previous machine, I can't say how much of an improvement to workflow is made by the iLife link to iDVD. Suffice to say that defining chapter numbers and hitting the iDVD button are about all you have to do to get started with the DVD phase of your project. Just make sure you've finished your iMovie activities first.

Another unexpected bonus was a new export option to export the sound of the whole video as an AIFF file. From there I could import it into Sound Studio (bundled with my iMac), cut it up into tracks, import the AIFF tracks into iTunes, burn them to CD and even rip my own CD to get mp3s. Making the CD of the movie was a breeze, especially with the 16x CD burner.

The preference for "New projects are : " PAL or NTSC is helpful for those of us who regularly deal with both formats. As iMovie can't reliably tell what type of analog camera is connected via the Dazzle bridge, I would often experience the situation where previous versions of iMovie refused to allow me to continue work with the camera and an existing project.

### **Don't try this at home!**

If you have an iSight camera plugged into one of your firewire ports and a camcorder plugged into the other, don't be surprised if you can't capture any video. How does iMovie know which of those cameras it's supposed to be working with ? Before I realized this, I captured some video that had alternate sound and silence - a couple of seconds of each.

Expect the worst if you choose the "New projects are NTSC" preference and then connect a PAL analog camcorder via your Dazzle bridge or similar. I did this purely as an experiment and was pleasantly surprised to get video that looked normal. Then I discovered that either sound was missing or sound from one clip was associated with a different clip. I was trying to see if iMovie would detect the situation and refuse to capture - maybe it would if the offending camcorder was digital.

### **iMovie limitations**

iMovie allows you to make beautiful end credits just like those you see in a real movie; your friends and family will love to see their own names rolling up the screen. In some types of titles, the right hand edge of the text is slightly misaligned. Nobody who saw the movies seemed to notice, but I'd still prefer this not to happen. Another thing I noticed about making titles was that there was some sort of usability flaw that left me always getting the text of the previous title in the one I was currently trying to do. I always managed to fix this by retyping and re-rendering the offending titles.

Many of my finished projects involve music, either because they are live music events or because I set them to music. In either case, it's a serious limitation not to be able to see the sound waveform. I find myself memorizing frame numbers, playing, rewinding and playing again to evaluate where cuts should be to line up with music, when this would be plainly visible in the waveform. iMovie would be better if it did this, but then again it's free and Apple makes Final Cut Express and Final Cut Pro for people who want to take their video making to the next level.



I found that converting NTSC to PAL using iMovie and Quicktime was of limited value. A little girl running happily through the frame in NTSC turned into a cloud of shredded bits running through the frame in PAL. I discovered that all but one of the DVD players I tried in the US and UK could play both PAL and NTSC DVDs made from iMovie. This is a separate issue from region coding, but it's worth noting that iMovie's output is not region coded.

### Summary

Unlike iTunes and iPhoto, Apple doesn't (as far as I know) have any way of making money from your home movie collection. Instead iMovie seems to be provided for free as an incentive to choose Mac rather than Windows. For me it's simply one of the compelling factors in being a Mac owner. The latest version is stable, reliable and easy to use. The new iLife links improve workflow and help creativity. Your finished products will wow your friends, especially those who try to emulate you using their Windows systems.

### Pros:

- Easiest program to edit movies
- Ken Burns effect
- No more ghostly triangles
- Links to other iLife applications

### Cons:

- Sound waveform not visible
- iTunes playlists in random order
- Titles usability and occasional slight misalignment

### Overall Rating:

**5 out of 5 Mice**

## MACALLY IVOICE II

Reviewed by Bill Catambay

### Overview

The Macally iVoice II is a Mac audio add-on that adds Audio In and Audio Out ports through your Mac's USB port. It makes Audio In and Out ports very accessible, and is especially useful for Macs that don't have a built-in Audio In port.

*Retail price is \$49.*

### Features

- Built-in microphone
- Stereo line-in jack to digitize your analog audio from cassette tape player, CD player etc.
- Mic-in and line-out jacks accept the regular PC headset (not included) for comfort and convenience of internet chatting
- Mute button to turn off built-in mic, mic-in and line-in
- Perfect for application such as voice command and control, voice recognition, voice recording, internet phone and video conference
- Power mute indicator
- Fully compliant with USB1.1 specification

### Requirements

- G3/G4, iMac or PowerBook with a built-in USB port or any PowerPC with 3rd party USB adapter installed
- MacOS 9.2, Mac OS 10.1.5

### Initial Setup

Hooking up the iVoice II is incredibly simple. Just plug the USB cable into your Mac's USB port (or a USB hub), and then use your OS software to set your input to USB (on OS 9, "External Mic, and on OS X, "Macally USB Microphone"). There is no external power needed. I just plugged it in, and it worked.

### **In Use**

The iVoice II comes in an egg-like shape with curved foot that props it upright. The design is quite functional, as all the ports and knobs are easily accessible, and if you are using the built-in microphone, the positioning is just right for capturing audio in. Not only that, but it looks cool sitting on your desktop. Although an egg-shape device may seem prone to tipping over, I found that the foot on the iVoice II did an excellent job of preventing such a fall (even when I purposely was poking at it trying to tip it over). The casing is made of a durable white plastic with a very sturdy feel.

There's one button on the top of the device for switching from Mic In (non-powered input) to Line In (powered input). On the left side are the Mic In and Line Out ports, appropriately together in case you use a computer headset that has dual jacks. On the right side is the Line In port as well as a volume control knob for the Line Out signal.

You can use this device in a variety of ways, from recording sounds on the built-in Mic, recording sounds on an external non-powered Mic, and recording sound from a powered device (such as a CD player, MP3 player, etc.). Utilizing the Mic In and Line Out ports together, you can also use it for video conferencing using a computer headset, or headphones with an external Mic.

I was amazed at how simple it was to use this unit. Under OS 9, I hooked it up, switched the input to External Mic, and immediately went to the Alerts tab of the Sound control panel and clicked on New Sound. I spoke into the iVoice II, and the sound instantly was recorded as a new alert sound. The quality of the recording was pretty good for a built-in Mic. Of course, the quality varies with the type of microphone you use, the level of input, and the background noise. Using a desktop microphone connected to the Mic In port, I was able to capture a much higher quality sound.

Besides using the record function on the OS 9 Sound control panel, you can also capture audio using any recording software, such as SoundEdit or Sound Studio. You can also use it with video conferencing software to speak and listen through the iVoice II audio in and out ports. What was a very pleasant surprise is that the iVoice II also supports the Apple microphones (you know, those Mics that used to come with every Mac). Just when I thought it was time to toss out the old microphones, the iVoice II has given them a reprieve.

The iVoice II is well integrated with the Mac OS, both OS 9 and OS X, and I am hard-pressed to find any fault with the hardware. If I could suggest anything, I would ask for a longer cable, one that would make the distance between a desktop microphone connected to a tower Mac that may be sitting underneath the desk. Of course, since the iVoice II can also be hooked into a USB hub, using a desktop hub circumvents that particular drawback.

### **Summary**

The magic of the iVoice II is in its simplicity. This is a USB add-on device that puts Audio In and Out ports on your desktop, complete with volume control and a toggle for powered or non-powered input. The design is both pleasing and functional. For any Mac user with Audio needs, this is a welcome addition to your Mac system; and for those G4 users that do not have an Audio In port at all, the iVoice II is a must have.

### **Pros**

- Brings back the Audio In port for G4 Macs that don't have them
- Supports Mic input, externally amped device input, and Audio out
- Built-in Mic, or supports 3rd party Mics (including the Apple Mic)
- Cool and functional design, including volume control on output
- Inexpensive

### **Cons**

- A longer cable would be helpful for hooking up to a tower Mac

### **Overall Rating**

**5 out of 5 Mice**

Reviewed by Bill Catambay

### Overview

The DYMO LabelWriter 330 is a compact printer designed to print labels directly from your Mac or PC, so there's no more fussing with trying to load label sheets into your normal document printer. With the LabelWriter's resolution of 300 dpi, your labels will come out crisp and clearly legible, whether you're printing nametags, address labels, or barcodes.

The 330 can print directly from many standard business applications such as Word and Outlook, so you can use a variety of fonts and print sizes, and even add pictures. Less than 5 inches across, and weighing less than 5 pounds, it fits snugly on even small desks. It comes with all cables, as well as the software and labels to get you started. DYMO provides a one-year warranty on parts and service.

The LabelWriter 330 handles more than 40 standard label sizes up to 2.3 inches (56mm) wide, including address, postage, shipping, file folder, disk, video, name badge, cassette, and many more. It comes with DYMO Label software and integrates directly with Microsoft Word, Outlook, the Palm Desktop, GoldMine, ACT, and CardScan. And it works with all other software through standard printer drivers.

*Retail price is \$179.99 (Amazon price is \$159.99).*

### Features

- Eliminates the hassle of printing labels with a desktop or network printer.
- Direct thermal print technology eliminates ribbons, toner and ink cartridges.
- 300dpi resolution for laser sharp labels.
- Prints labels up to 2.3" (56 mm) wide.
- Prints labels in less than 4 seconds, 16 per minute.
- Prints Internet postage.
- Automatically captures addresses from popular applications for instant address labels with no retyping.
- Prints Code 39, Code 128, Codabar, UPC-A/E, EAN-8/13/128, ITF-14 and Interleaved 2 of 5 bar codes.
- Connects to USB or Serial port.
- Easy to share over a network.
- Works with Windows 98, 2000, Me, XP and MAC OS X. Can be used with MAC OS 8.6, 9, and 9.1 with version 5.03 of our DLS software.
- Package contents: Printer, power cable, serial cable, USB cable, roll of labels, Windows/Mac software on CD, printed Quick Start Guide.

### Initial Setup

I hooked the Dymo 330 up to my G4/867 via my USB hub and installed the Dymo software on Mac OS 9.2.2 (this is DLS 5). At first the software didn't recognize the labelwriter. To remedy the situation, I went into the Chooser to select the Dymo Labelwriter and tried to print a small file within SimpleText as a test. That seemed to work fine. I then went back into the Chooser to reselect my HP printer since I didn't want all my printing to go to the Labelwriter. After that initial test print, the Dymo software had no problems seeing the printer. I typed in an address, clicked the Dymo print button, and the address label printed out perfectly.

I switch between OS 9 and OS X, so later I booted up OS X and installed the OS X version of the Dymo software (DLS 6). I went into the software to create a label, and ran into a small snag. Basically, the text in the software was condensed on each line into just the first character cell (the label printed out the same way). After contacting the vendor, I was informed that the Dymo software for OS X only worked in 10.1.5 -or- 10.2.5 and higher. I happened to have been on 10.2.2, which put me in the doesn't-work-right zone. After downloading Apple's 10.2.6 update and installing it, I then went back into the software, and all the text was showing up correctly, and it printed like a charm.

## **In Use**

The Dymo LabelWriter 330 is a very sleek and stylish design. It's a low profile label printer that takes up very little of your valuable desktop space.

The Dymo 330 can be used from 3rd party programs (such as word processors and database apps), but for ease-of-use, I preferred using the Dymo Labelwriter Software (DLS) that comes with the labelwriter. Using DLS, you can create labels on the fly, or you can store labels in an address book so you can retrieve them again later for subsequent printing. I keep my family and friends in the address book, and when I have one-shot needs to create a label (such as for sending out an eBay item), the software is perfect for quickly entering in an address and printing out a label.

For OS 9 users, the LabelWriter uses DLS version 5, and for OS X users, it uses DLS version 6. They are basically the same software, except that DLS 6 has a more polished user interface and a few extras. When using DLS, you do not use the Chooser to select the Dymo labelwriter. DLS automatically switches to using the labelwriter when you print from within the software (and it doesn't affect other applications, i.e., they will still use the printer setup in Chooser).

DLS includes a variety of label templates to choose from (from address labels to zip disk labels to folder labels). After choosing a label from the Label Templates popup menu, the label is presented in the DLS window. Each label type depends upon the size of the label paper you are using (and there are several label types you can order). Making a label is done by either clicking on the label window to change the text on-the-fly, or you can click on the Address Book and then select an address stored there. The label editor, whether used to change text on-the-fly or creating an entry in the address book, offers a fair amount of text handling, such as font, size, style, vertical printing, and a mirror effect. You can also specify the text attributes for the entire label, just the first line, or the remaining lines. Further, when entering an address, if you use a full 9 digit zip code, the software automatically inserts a postage barcode (POSTNET) on the label. There are preference settings that allow you to specify to always use the barcode, and also whether to put the barcode above or below the address.

DLS also includes a designer function that lets you alter the label template by adding graphics and text directly on the template. For the graphics, there are tools for lines and objects, barcodes, and an option to insert your own graphics from a file. In DLS 6, there is also a text tool for bending your text in an arc. You can then save the label template under a different name. The next time you select that template, all of your template text and graphics, as well as the text styles selected for the label, will automatically be loaded back in. I found this feature to be extremely useful. I found the Dymo software to be adequate for all my needs, but there is definite room for improvement (e.g., graphics scaling, showing size, drag & drop, etc.).

The quality of the prints from the Dymo are outstanding. The most amazing part of labelwriter is that you never have to change out an ink cartridge or ribbon. The Dymo 330 is a thermal printer, meaning that it uses heat applied to the special labels to create the print. I tried entering some grayscale graphic images, and the grayscale was duplicated amazingly well, just as good as my laserwriter would have done. The only downside on OS 9 is that you have to wait while the label prints (i.e., no background printing option). Under OS X, this setback is removed, as DLS 6 supports background printing.

The printer itself is very easy to operate. The top lid opens up with ease, under which you can change the spool out with a new label spool. There is only one button on the front which is used for paper feed. When not printing, the 330 does not make a peep, so you can leave it on 24/7 (there's just a small green LED light in front that stays illuminated to let you know it has power). Overall, I was very impressed by the design of the printer. In fact, in terms of just the hardware, I could not find any fault with this product.

There were a few quirks I discovered with the Dymo software. The OS 9 version (DLS 5) does not have descriptors (neither static or pop-up) for the buttons, so you have to learn what the buttons are by trial or by reading the documentation. Additionally, DLS 5 did not have all the features of DLS 6, such as the arc text feature and background printing. One major quirk I ran into, however, is for users who switch between OS 9 and OS X. DLS 5 and DLS 6 can be set to work from the same folder for storing address books, but they use different formats of the address book. I found this out the hard way. I had created an extensive address book in DLS 5, but when I used DLS 6 to access my address book, the software must have changed something. It loaded the address book into DLS 6 just fine at first, but when I returned to DLS 5, the address book was no longer readable by the program. I went back to DLS 6 to open up the address book again, and the address book was suddenly empty. Peeking in the address book file with

BBEdit, I confirmed that the addresses were all wiped out. This is a disheartening effect of the incompatibility between DLS 5 and DLS 6.

### **Summary**

The Dymo LabelWriter 330 is one of those desktop tools that you may not think you need, but once you use it for awhile, you cannot imagine being without it. Whether you are creating address labels for holiday cards, sending out eBay items, or even a quick label for your household boxes, the Dymo 330 is both convenient and versatile. The print quality is amazing, including a variety of supported barcodes as well as graphics. The 330 model also holds the larger labels, which allows you to print just about any kind of label you might possibly need, such as full address labels, return address labels, disk labels, file labels, zip labels, and more. The Dymo software even lets you create your own label templates based upon the label type. Users of OS 9 and OS X will have to use two separate address books due to incompatibilities between DLS 5 and DLS 6, but that is the only fault I could find in this product. Given the variety of labels that the Dymo 330 supports, there's a use for this labelwriter for every Mac user. After using it for awhile, you'll wonder how you ever got along without one. This product comes highly recommended!

### **Pros**

- Simple to use
- Stylish low-profile design
- Accepts several label types
- No printer ink required
- High quality labels (including graphics)

### **Cons**

- Using both OS 9 and OS X on the same address book corrupts the address book
- Dymo software is adequate, but could be improved upon

### **Overall Rating**

**4 1/2 out of 5 Mice**

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